

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CEA-01

CIEP-01 STR-04 /092 W
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R 131755Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1097
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 07270

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, UK
SUBJECT: COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE FOLLOW UP ON RHODESIA

REF: USUN 1588

SUMMARY. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR EASUM AND EMB-
OFF ON MAY 12 FCO DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY, ALAN CAMPBELL,
RECOUNTED PARTS OF DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ON
SOUTHERN AFRICA AT RECENT COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERN-
MENT MEETING AND OUTLINED SCENARIO FOR FUTURE ACTIONS BY
CERTAIN COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

1. AS A RESULT OF CONVERSATIONS AMONG BRITISH, ZAMBIANS,
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BOTSWANANS, TANZANIANS AND ANC LEADERS AT KINGSTON EARLIER

THIS MONTH, SOME COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS HAVE BEGUN A SERIES OF MOVES TO FURTHER A SETTLEMENT OF THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL, ARNOLD SMITH, CABLED UNSYG FROM KINGSTON OUTLINING ROLE THAT EXPANDED SANCTIONS (AND PARTICULARLY IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS BY MOZAMBIQUE) CAN BE EXPECTED TO PLAY IN FORCING MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN IAN SMITH REGIME AND ANC AND SUGGESTING THAT UNSYG CONSIDER WAYS THAT UN COULD HELP OFFSET COST OF SANCTIONS TO MOZAMBIQUE. THIS MESSAGE WAS TO BE FOLLOWED UP IN MEETING ON MAY 12 BETWEEN UNSYG AND BRITISH PERM REP RICHARDS (REFTEL). FOLLOWING THIS APPROACH, RICHARDS IS EXPECTED TO DISCUSS COMPENSATION FOR MOZAMBIQUE WITH U.S. AND OTHER REPS. BRITISH AIMING FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS IN ANSWER TO UNSYG APPEAL, RATHER THAN THROUGH APPEAL IN GA OR SC. KAUNDA AND NYERERE HAVE ASSURED BRITISH THAT MOZAMBIQUE WILL APPLY SANCTIONS.

2. ACTING ON SUGGESTION FROM ANC LEADERS, BRITISH THINKING SERIOUSLY OF ASKING SMITH TO RECEIVE BRITISH CABINET MINISTER, PROBABLY SOMETIME IN MID-JUNE. TIMING WILL DEPEND ON JUDGEMENT AS TO WHEN SMITH LIKELY TO RESPOND FAVORABLY AS BRITISH DO NOT WISH TO RISK ANOTHER SNUB. MAIN PURPOSE OF VISIT WOULD BE TO GET READING ON CURRENT ATTITUDE OF WHITE SETTLERS.

3. WHEN ASKED ABOUT PRESS REPORTS OF BRITISH PROMISE TO CALL CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE "EVEN IF SMITH DOES NOT ATTEND," CAMPBELL SAID BRITISH HAD NOT LOST THEIR FREEDOM OF ACTION ON THIS ISSUE. PRIME MINISTER WILSON IN MEETING WITH LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS, PRESIDENTS OF ZAMBIA, TANZANIA AND BOTSWANA AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL HAD AGREED THAT BY MID-JULY SMITH MIGHT BE HURTING ENOUGH TO AGREE TO ATTEND CONFERENCE AND THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO CALL IT IF THAT PROVES TO BE THE CASE. CAMPBELL INSISTED THAT BRITISH DO NOT BELIEVE THEY HAVE MADE ANY BINDING PROMISE TO MEET ANY

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R 131755Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1098

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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DEADLINE ON CALLING CONFERENCE. IN FACT, ACCORDING TO CAMPBELL, KAUNDA OPPOSED SUCH DEADLINE. COMMENT: BRITISH OBVIOUSLY BELIEVE AFRICANS ARE CONVINCED WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT, PLUS IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS BY MOZAMBIQUE, WILL PUT IAN SMITH IN MORE AMENABLE FRAME OF MIND BY MID-JULY. FOR THEIR PART BRITISH APPEAR TO HOPE THIS WILL PROVE TRUE. END COMMENT.

4. CAMPBELL EXPRESSED PARTICULAR SATISFACTION WITH MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONTACTS BRITISH ESTABLISHED WITH ANC LEADERS AT KINGSTON. HE BELIEVES THIS WILL LESSEN BRITISH DEPENDENCE ON KAUNDA AND NYERERE IN DEALING WITH ANC. NDABANINGI SITHOLE AND JOSHUA NKOMO ARE IN LONDON
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NOW AND MET SEPARATELY WITH CAMPBELL ON MAY 12. ANC NOW PLANNING TO TALK AGAIN WITH SMITH TO DETERMINE EFFECT OF COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE DECISIONS ON RHODESIAN REGIME. (IN LATTER CONNECTION ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, CURRENTLY IN LONDON, TOLD AMBASSADOR EASUM ON MAY 13 THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD CONTINUE DESPITE COMMENT BY NDABANINGI SITHOLE ON BRITISH T.V. ON EVENING OF MAY 12, THAT ANC NO LONGER OBLIGED TO NEGOTIATE WITH SMITH. SITHOLE COMMENT WAS PROVOKED BY SMITH'S LATEST REASSERTION THERE WOULD BE NO MAJORITY RULE "IN MY LIFETIME").

4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT CROWING ABOUT IT, THE BRITISH ARE VERY PLEASED THAT THEIR CAREFULLY LAID PLANS FOR COORDINATED APPROACH WITH AFRICANS ON RHODESIA AT KINGSTON HAS PAID OFF HANDSOMELY. UK-AFRICAN COLLABORATION ON THIS ISSUE PLAYED CONSIDERABLE PART IN ASSURING SUCCESS OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING. BRITISH ARE PARTICULARLY HAPPY WITH TIES ESTABLISHED BETWEEN ANC LEADERS AND FORD SEC CALLAGHAN. THEY UNDOUBTEDLY BELIEVE THIS WILL GIVE THEM A BETTER BASIS FOR PROPOSING TALKS WITH IAN SMITH AND ALLOW THEM TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN RHODESIA. ONCE THEY ARE ABLE TO TALK WITH BOTH SIDES ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THE BRITISH WILL WANT TO DO IS TO MAKE SURE THAT EACH SIDE HAS A PRECISE IDEA OF WHAT THE OTHER IS SAYING AND TO GET BOTH SIDES TO FOCUS ON MODALITIES OF PROCEEDING TO MAJORITY RULE.

RICHARDSON

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